



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

November 1, 2004

Dear Organic Handlers/Producers:

Michigan's Organic Product's Act 316 of 2000 went into effect on October 1, 2001. Producers must be registered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This law requires that any handler or producer who produce, process, package or re-label under their own name or for a private or for a private label, or make organic claims about their operation or a particular portion of their operation must be registered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. If you are a producer or processor, your product must be certified by the registered certify agent.

This registration is renewed annually with the submission of a completed registration application and payment of the appropriate fee. The registration fee is based on gross organic sales. Please see the attached application for the fee schedule. Please provide support documentation to enable MDA to verify the amount of the registration fee (see fee schedule on registration form). Examples of documentation are bills of sale, income tax forms (delete unnecessary information i.e. social security number) etc.

Operations, including wholesalers and retailers, that do not process, produce, package, or re-label organic products under their own name or for private label, or make organic claims about their operation or a particular part of their operation are not required to be certified and registered. Handling operations not required to be certified, must comply with the following:

- ✓ Prevent commingling organic and non-organic products;
- ✓ Protect organic products from coming into contact with prohibited substances;
- ✓ Maintain records verifying that organic products are certified and registered;
- ✓ Verify quantities of organic products;
- ✓ Maintain records sufficient to verify compliance with the act;
- ✓ Make records available for inspection and copying by MDA to determine compliance;
- ✓ Clearly label, post, or maintain original organic certification information or identification of organic product it handles;

Retail food establishments (including restaurants) not advertising as organic, labeling as organic, or not making organic claims about any of the following are not subject to this act:

- ✓ Their final product
- ✓ An ingredient
- ✓ Their operation
- ✓ A particular part of their operation

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I have enclosed a copy of the Michigan Organic Products Act 316 of 2000, an application for registration of handlers/producers, and my business card. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (517) 373-0280 or by e-mail at collierc@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Collier
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

CMC:tdJ

enclosures